

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of authenticating first and second electronic devices, comprising:
 - upon link set-up over a short-range wireless link,
 - 5 executing an authentication protocol by exchanging authentication information between the first and second electronic devices to initially authenticate communication between the first and second devices;
 - later, when the first and second electronic devices
 - 10 are beyond the short-range wireless link, executing the authentication protocol by exchanging the authentication information between the first and second electronic devices over an alternate communications link, then only allowing communication between the first and second
 - 15 devices if the first and second devices had initially been successfully authenticated.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the authentication information is an authentication key.
- 20 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the authentication information a password.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first device is a
- 25 master device and the second device is a slave device.
5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the short-range wireless link is a radio link.
- 30 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the short-range wireless link is an infra-red link.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the link set-up occurs when the first and second devices are in physical proximity.

5 8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the short-range wireless link conforms to a given RF protocol.

9. The method of Claim 2, wherein the given RF protocol is Bluetooth.

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10. The method of Claim 1 wherein the link set-up step includes entry of a given personal identification number into each of the first and second electronic devices.

15 11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the alternate communications link is a computer network.

12. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first electronic device is a client and the second electronic device is a server.
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13. A method of authenticating first and second electronic devices, comprising:

upon link set-up over a first link, executing an authentication protocol by exchanging authentication information between the first and second electronic devices to initially authenticate communication between the first and second devices;

later, when the first and second electronic devices are connected using a second link, exchanging the authentication information between the first and second electronic devices over the second link, then only allowing communication between the first and second

devices if the first and second devices had initially been successfully authenticated.

14. An electronic device, comprising:

5 a processor;

 and

 a memory loaded with a software routine executed by
the processor (a) for generating authentication
information useful in initially authenticating the
10 electronic device to a another electronic device over a
short-range wireless link, and (b) for later supplying
the authentication information for later authentication
of the electronic device to the other electronic device
over an alternate communications link when the devices
15 are beyond the short-range wireless link, then only
allowing communication between the devices if the devices
had initially been successfully authenticated.

15. The electronic device of Claim 14, wherein the link
20 set-up step includes entry of a given personal
identification number into each of the first and second
electronic devices.

16. The electronic device of Claim 14, wherein the
25 electronic device is a client and the second electronic
device is a server.

17. A communications system, comprising:

 a first electronic device;

30 a second electronic device;

 a first communications link over which the first and
second electronic devices authenticate each other using a
given protocol that includes a link set-up and the
exchange of authentication information following the link

a second communications link over which the first and second electronic devices later authenticate each other using the exchange of the authentication information, then only allowing communication between the first and second devices if the first and second devices had initially been successfully authenticated.

Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
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